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Montana State  
Occupational  
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Coordinating  
Committee



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Winter, 1984

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### MONTANA SOICC NEWSLETTER

Many of you have been introduced to the Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC) in the past. For those of you who are new to SOICC, here is a brief introduction:

Congress created the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) and the network of SOICCs by amending the Vocational Education Act of 1963 (P.L. 94-482) and by establishing the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-300).

The Montana SOICC is comprised of four statutory agencies ( the Job Service and Training Division and the Centralized Services Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Vocational Education Services of the Office of Public Instruction, and the Rehabilitative Services Division of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services) and has been expanded to include two other agencies (the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System and the Business Assistance Division of the Department of Commerce). Got it?

All of the SOICC's work is accomplished through interagency cooperation. The SOICC compiles data from many agencies, then process and analyzes the data in a technically appropriate manner, producing information that is usable by program planners, administrators, counselors, and others. The SOICC's work minimizes duplication between agencies and improves the availability of useful information. The SOICC acts as a formal structure which links the work of education and labor agencies in Montana. Finally, the SOICC is responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of a statewide Occupational Information System (OIS) which is based on the current supply of workers and the current demand for jobs.

Montana's OIS produces a publication entitled, "Montana Supply/Demand Report." The first supply/demand report was printed and distributed in May, 1983. Annual updates are planned for the report and copies can be obtained by writing the SOICC at the address shown above.

\* \* \* \* \*

What is Occupational Information? Occupational information provides insight into jobs at national, state, and local levels. It includes the following information on an occupation:

- . Opportunities for employment
- . Descriptions of job duties
- . Descriptions of working conditions including wage rates, physical demands, etc.
- . Availability of trained workers
- . Requirements for education and training

Employment opportunities are referred to as occupational demand; availability of trained workers is referred to as occupational supply; and, descriptions and requirements are referred to as occupational characteristics.



## Why is Occupational Information Needed?

Individuals and organizations need occupational information for the following reasons:

- . Industry development and re-location
- . Vocational education and training program planning
- . Provision of employment services
- . State policy development
- . Job development and placement
- . Individual career and job decisions

## Occupational Hazard...

Experience is what you often get when you were expecting something else.

- Unknown

## From the Research and Analysis Bureau

Did you know that Montana has a total population of 786,690 and a labor force of 392,193? Those employed in November of 1983 totaled 359,930. Our state's unemployment rate was 8.2% (actual figure 32,263). Did you also know that Montana paid \$4,136,857 in regular unemployment insurance benefits in November, 1983? The average unemployment insurance weekly benefit was then \$123.34.

Federal, state, and local agencies and/or organizations collect and produce a wide variety of occupational information. Individually, each data resource represents useful tools which help to meet part of the need for occupational information. Collectively, all sources of data often combine to produce information that is confusing and unnecessarily duplicative. That is precisely why the NOICC and the SOICCs were created.

The above-mentioned statistics were obtained from the Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry's publication entitled, "Montana Statistics in Brief." If you would like a monthly copy of this publication, write to the Research and Analysis Bureau, POB 1728, Helena, Montana 59624.

Winter, 1984

Editor - Fran Mares

## The Montana SOICC Staff Members

Bob Arnold is the Montana SOICC Program Manager and has been with the SOICC since 1980. Bob is a Montana native, has two grown sons, and managed a data processing center at a federal facility in San Diego, California for ten years. Bob has also been a Systems Analyst for other State of Montana agencies.

Fran Mares is the SOICC's Administrative Assistant and has been on staff since 1979. She worked half-time for SOICC for three years and attended Carroll College full-time; she graduated with a BA degree in Communications in July, 1982. Fran is a native Southern Californian (turned Montanan after fifteen years) and has two elementary school-aged daughters.

## A Look at the Future

The Bureau of labor Statistics predicts that the following five occupations will have the highest numbers of employed in the United States in 1990:

1. Secretaries
2. Nurses' Aides
3. Janitors
4. Sales Clerks
5. Cashiers

## Something to Think About...

Initial career aspirations can be critical in accounting for later employment success. Aspirations are so important that they constitute one definite way to overcome a low level first job with respect to first employment. No other initial attitudes, including job satisfaction, account for later employment.

- J.A. Raelin

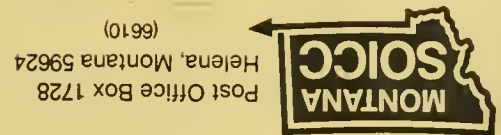
"Building a Career: The Effect of Initial Job Experiences and Related Work Attitudes on Later Employment" 1980

## Dictionary of Occupational Titles

The Fourth Edition DOT, 1977 has a new supplement. Its catalog number is 029-014-00208-9 and can be obtained from regional Government Printing Offices or directly from the GPO in Washington, DC.



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Circulation



200 copies of this newsletter were produced at an individual cost of 29¢ per copy, for a total cost of \$ 58.98 , which includes \$24.98 for printing and \$34.00 for distribution.



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